



THUNDER MOON 2008

COMPLIMENTARY

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 9

Tribe celebrates blessing of Project Horizon's Earth expansion

By Jonathan S. Hamilton

On a sun-drenched spring day, actor and Blues Brother Dan Aykroyd highlighted the ground blessing ceremony for Project Horizon's Earth expansion by riding up to the top floor of the Mohegan Sun's Winter Garage on a cherry-red Harley Davidson Road King as fireworks exploded around him. *See Project Horizon on page 3*



Actor Dan Aykroyd makes a grand entrance on his Harley motorcycle during the ground blessing ceremony for Mohegan Sun's Project Horizon Earth expansion.

PHOTOS BY BILL GUCFA



Dan Aykroyd, center, gathers with members of the Mohegan Tribal Council, who donned Blues Brothers costumes for the ceremony. From left are: Tribal Councilor Thayne D. Hutchins Jr., Vice Chairwoman Lynn Malerba, Tribal Chairman Bruce S. Bozsum "Two Dogs," Tribal Councilor Cheryl Todd, Aykroyd, Recording Secretary Allison D. Johnson; Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority CEO Mitchell Etes; Corresponding Secretary James Gessner Jr., Live Nation President Jimmy Koplik; Ambassador Mark F. Brown; Treasurer William Quidgeon Jr. and Tribal Councilor Mark W. Hamilton.

Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel appointed Medicine Woman

By Nancy Trimble

The Mohegan Council of Elders recently named Tribal Historian Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel to be the Mohegan Medicine Woman, an important ceremonial position reserved for a Tribal member whose traditional wisdom, knowledge and advice are sought after for improving and preserving the spiritual, physical and emotional health of individual Tribal members and for promoting harmony and well-being within the Tribe as a collective whole.

Tantaquidgeon Zobel is the grand-niece of the last Mohegan Medicine Woman, Gladys Tantaquidgeon, who passed away in November 2005 at the age of 106 after a life of keeping the Tribe's cultural heritage, studying anthropology, researching Indian folk medicine and herbalism, writing books and co-founding the Tantaquidgeon Museum, the oldest Indian owned and operated museum in America.

PHOTO BY BILL GUCFA

Tantaquidgeon Zobel "mentored under Gladys-Tantaquidgeon her whole life and was Gladys' choice to succeed her as Medicine Woman," said Council of Elders member Maynard Strickland.

In making the appointment, the Council of



Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel has been appointed Mohegan Medicine Woman, a position last held by her Great Aunt the late Gladys Tantaquidgeon, who trained her in Mohegan tradition and spiritual beliefs for four decades.

Elders adopted a resolution that states, in part: "Tribal Member Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel has long served the Mohegan Tribe in paid and unpaid capacities. Her years of dedicated service to the Tribe have involved many different tasks, including serving on the Mohegan Tribal Council, serving on the Council of Elders, compiling records essential to the Tribe's petition for federal recognition, serving as Tribal Historian, representing the Tribe in a variety of different forums, and continuing the tradition of Mohegan Medicine Woman Gladys Tantaquidgeon in helping to educate the Tribal membership and the public at large regarding Mohegan Tribal culture. She has, throughout her lifetime, been an advocate for the Mohegan Tribe and its members and a promoter of Mohegan culture ..."

Tantaquidgeon Zobel is employed by the Mohegan Tribal government as the Executive Director of the Cultural and Community Programs Department, which organizes the annual Mohegan Wigwam Festival, conducts cultural outreach

See Mohegan Medicine Woman on page 5

Ni Ya Yo

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EDITORIAL

Tribal Sovereignty allows the Mohegan Tribe to protect its great history and distinct culture

The Mohegan Tribe, like all federally-recognized Native American tribes, is protected by the right of Tribal Sovereignty. Long before the creation of the United States of America, the non-Natives who came to these lands recognized Tribal Sovereignty in their own laws. In the case of the Mohegan Nation, this was as early as 1638. Our leaders were welcomed by monarchs and leaders in the great courts of Europe, as others have always recognized that we were a distinct government providing for our people and protecting our culture. We were and are the Wolf people led by Sachem Uncas. Throughout our history, including the present-day, we have elected and appointed our own leaders as any other government and revere those that have given of themselves for the benefit of all.

With the creation of the United States of America in 1776, the U.S. Constitution noted the separate status of Tribal nations, recognizing them as “independent government entities,” and guaranteeing them certain rights and privileges. The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld our fundamental rights and in the early 1800’s wrote that Native Americans should retain “their original rights as the undisputed possessors of the soil from time immemorial” and “the very term nation, so gen-

erally applied to them, means a people distinct from others, having territorial boundaries within which their authority is exclusive, and having a right to all the lands within those boundaries, which is not only acknowledged but guaranteed by the United States.”

These rights of Tribal Sovereignty, which prevailed long before the non-Native people of Europe grew and expanded their land holdings, and which were later validated by Congress and the Supreme Court, have allowed us to protect a great history and distinct culture. As you will



These rights of Tribal Sovereignty, which prevailed long before the non-Native people of Europe grew and expanded their land holdings, and which were later validated by Congress and the Supreme Court, have allowed us to protect a great history and distinct culture.



see in this edition of *Ni Ya Yo*, we are expanding Mohegan Sun so that we may continue to provide for our people as we have for generations. We use the revenue from business to provide for the health and welfare of our people.

You will also note that we continue to meet with government leaders at both the state and federal level to talk about how we can better interact for the benefit of all. All of this work is so that we can protect the unique cul-

ture and language of which we are so very proud. Since the time of Sachem Uncas in the 1600s, the Mohegans have believed in communication and cooperation for the benefit of the 13 generations. ✦

The Sachem Fund: Revitalizing Norwich



The Sachem Fund, created after the city of Norwich, Conn., and the Mohegan Tribe came together over the fate of the former Masonic Temple, will fund grants aimed at revitalizing economic and cultural development in Norwich.

During a ceremony at Norwich City Hall earlier this year, Mohegan Tribal Chairman Bruce S. Bozsum “Two Dogs” said, “The Sachem Fund continues a long history between the Mohegan Tribe and the city of Norwich. This is a great day for Norwich and the Mohegan Tribe.”

The Tribe agreed to donate \$1 million – \$200,000 a year for five years – to the Sachem Fund and the city matched that figure.

Leaders of the Tribe and Norwich officials created the fund not only to bring positive change to the city landscape, but also as a method for sustaining the history, arts and culture of the city.

Members of the Sachem Fund Committee, which includes three members of the Tribal Council, met in late June to recommend \$612,950 be allocated in grants from the new fund to various city projects and proposals.

The group considered the first round of 28 requests which totaled \$933,349. In each of the next four years, an annual fund of \$400,000, from both entities, will be distributed to worthy projects to enhance the city and its environs. ✦

Ni Ya Yo is published by the Mohegan Tribe, a federally recognized tribe in Mohegan, Conn. The editorial content is the property of the Mohegan Tribe and may be reprinted only with written permission from the Tribe.

Councils Bless Land at Crow Hill



PHOTOS BY BILL GUCCA

Members of the Mohegan Tribal Council and the Council of Elders gather at the construction site of the Community and Government Center on Crow Hill to participate in the blessing of the land. As Tribal Chairman Bruce S. Bozsum “Two Dogs” performed a smudge ceremony, he recalled how the late Chief Ralph W. Sturges, Ph.D., implored him to make the Community Center a reality. From left are: Council of Elders member William Andrews, Tribal Councilors Thayne D. Hutchins Jr. and Mark W. Hamilton, Ambassador Mark F. Brown, Councilor of Elders Secretary Robert Soper Sr., Council of Elders Vice Chairman Joseph D. Gray Jr., Chairman Bozsum, Recording Secretary Allison D. Johnson, Corresponding Secretary James Gessner Jr., Council of Elders member Marie Pineault, Tribal Councilor Cheryl Todd, Treasurer William Quidgeon Jr., Council of Elders member Maynard Strickland and Council of Elders Treasurer Austin Fish.

Mission Statement

Ni Ya Yo is a sovereign messenger which provides an official Tribal government perspective on issues and events pertaining to the Mohegan Tribe and Indian Country as a whole.

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Mohegan Tribe, 5 Crow Hill Road, Uncasville, CT 06382
Phone: 1-800-MOHEGAN FAX: 860-862-6115

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Late Chief Ralph Sturges inducted into Connecticut Hall of Fame

By Jonathan S. Hamilton

During a special awards ceremony, state lawmakers bestowed upon the late Mohegan Chief Ralph W. Sturges, Ph.D., "G'tinemong" (He Who Helps Thee) induction into the Connecticut Hall of Fame on June 18.

During the event, members of the Connecticut Hall of Fame Committee announced this year's inductees to the Hall, located in the second floor reception area of the Legislative Office Building at the state capitol in Hartford, Conn.

Along with Chief Sturges, the inductees include Marian Anderson, the famed opera singer; Harry J. Gray, the retired Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of United Technologies; and Jackie Robinson, the first African American baseball player to break the color barrier in Major League Baseball.

Paul Sturges, son of the late Chief, accepted a glass statuette on his father's behalf. Choking back emotion, he said his father would have enjoyed the induction honor and the ceremony surrounding the event.

Chief Sturges served as Tribal Chairman from 1989 to 1996 and was elected Lifetime Chief in 1991, a position he held until he passed away last Oct. 1 at the age of 88. He led the Tribe through the federal recognition process and the development of Mohegan Sun into one of the most successful casinos in the world. Known for his charm, warmth, humor and kindness, Chief Sturges was respected for his integrity, openness and ability to



The late Mohegan Chief Ralph W. Sturges, Ph.D.

communicate.

State Sen. Joseph Crisco, a Democrat from Woodbridge, served as master of ceremonies during the induction ceremony and said he was honored to welcome the newest members into the Hall of Fame.

"This is one small way we can say thank you to individuals who have done so much for the state, the nation and for society. The legacy of these individuals will always live on for what they have achieved."

The Connecticut Hall of Fame is designed to recognize current or former residents of Connecticut who have distinguished themselves in their profession and performed outstanding serv-

ice to the state or nation.

Members of the Mohegan Tribal Council, the Council of Elders, Mohegan Sun executives, former Tribal Council members and senior Tribal government staff attended the event.

The first three honorees, Katharine Hepburn, Mark Twain and Igor Sikorsky were inducted into the Connecticut Hall of Fame in February of 2007. ✚



Chief Ralph Sturges' family attended the Connecticut Hall of Fame induction ceremony for the late Mohegan Chief in the Legislative Office Building in Hartford on June 18. From right are: the Chief's son Paul Sturges, Paul's wife Joanne, their children Paula and Jesse, and Jesse's friend Michelle Cona. Inset: Paul Sturges holds the statuette given to inductees who enter the Connecticut Hall of Fame.



Project Horizon's Earth expansion

Continued from page 1

Members of the Mohegan Tribal Council, the Council of Elders, casino executives, local dignitaries and the media gathered on top of the garage near the site of the planned 39-story Earth Hotel, which will be the tallest building in Connecticut, to celebrate the final portion of the \$925-million Phase III expansion of Mohegan Sun.

Mohegan Tribal Chairman Bruce S. Bozsum "Two Dogs" performed a smudge ceremony, then welcomed everyone by not-

ing that the event marks "another great milestone for the people of the Mohegan Tribe."

"Everything is coming together on the Tribe's ancestral lands to take Mohegan Sun to the next level as a one-of-a-kind destination," Chairman Bozsum said. "... Pitching in and working together during what has been a stressful and difficult time for the state and the nation, we are showing our commitment to our business and to being the best we can be."

The expansion features Aykroyd's



Dan Aykroyd stands between two renderings of the Earth Hotel Tower which will be the tallest building in Connecticut and have 919 rooms. It is scheduled to open in 2010.

House of Blues that will operate a 1,500-seat Music Hall, a 300-seat casual dining restaurant and a retail shop.

The 919-room Earth Hotel, which is scheduled to open in 2010, will feature 261 House of Blues-themed hotel rooms; a separate House of Blues registration desk; a 7,500-square-foot, exclusive members-only House of Blues Foundation Room and a 20,000-square-foot spa.

The restaurant and retail components are slated to open in October of 2010. The restaurant and retail space will connect the new hotel tower to the existing Sky Hotel Tower as well as to the Casino of the Earth. Included in the addition will be approximately 35,000 square feet of retail space, several

fine dining venues, a burger restaurant, four bars, a pizzeria and a three-station food court.

The 64,000-square-foot Casino of the Wind is expected to open this fall. It will feature 42,000 square feet of gaming, a 16,000-square-foot Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville restaurant and retail outlet, and a 56-seat Chief's Deli quick service food outlet. The new casino will have 680 slot machines, 28 table games and a 42-table House of Blues-themed poker room.

A portion of the Project Horizon expansion has already been completed. Sunrise Square, dedicated to Asian patrons, opened last August in the Earth Casino. It features Asian gaming, dining and a renovated bus lobby. ✚



Dan Aykroyd sits on his Harley Davidson Road King between Mitchell Etes, Chairman and CEO of Mohegan Sun, left, and Tribal Chairman Bruce S. Bozsum "Two Dogs" during the ground blessing ceremony of Project Horizon's Earth expansion.

Mohegan Tribe celebrates grand re-opening of Tantaquidgeon Museum

By Nancy Trimble

On June 18 – the birthday of Tantaquidgeon Museum co-founder Chief Harold Tantaquidgeon – Mohegan families gathered for the blessing and grand re-opening celebration of the newly renovated repository of Tribal treasures.

Mohegan Council of Elders Chairman John Henry Clark welcomed visitors and Tribal Chairman and Pipe Carrier Bruce S. Bozsum “Two Dogs” gave the blessing, performed a smudge and thanked those gathered for coming to such an important cultural event.

With Tribal member Chris Harris “Painted Turtle” drumming and Council of Elders member Bill Andrews “Dancing Shadow” playing the flute, guests enjoyed the mid-day sunshine warming the festivities. It was a happy day for the Mohegan Tribe, which is so proud of the oldest Indian owned and operated museum in America.

Tribal Sagamore Laurence Schultz “Redmoon,” wearing a 200-year-old feather headdress that belonged to his grandfather Chief Matahga, invited the guests to have a look around the grounds where Chief Tantaquidgeon taught Indian lore to Boy Scouts. He encouraged everyone to say a prayer and offer tobacco to the fire.

As Chief Tantaquidgeon did so many years ago, “Redmoon” asked everyone to try their hand on a turning rock, a round stone set on top of a larger stone, which slowly, over time, scoops out the center of the larger stone.

“This is how we made bowls,” “Redmoon” said.

A little while later, Chairman Bozsum asked the crowd to gather around the museum’s front door for the ribbon-cutting, which he performed with the help of Council of Elders member Marie Pineault.

They invited everyone to come in the museum and see all the improvements. In addition to a new cedar shake roof and restored stonework, the building has new ceilings, lighting, windows, doors and shelves. A new heating



Cutting the ribbon on the front door of the newly renovated Tantaquidgeon Museum are Mohegan Tribal Chairman Bruce S. Bozsum “Two Dogs” and Council of Elders member Marie Pineault. Left, Tribal Sagamore Laurence Schultz “Redmoon” speaks to visitors.



Above, the newly renovated Tantaquidgeon Museum is open for visitors from May through October. Below, the museum features a statue of its co-founder Gladys Tantaquidgeon.



The public is invited to visit the Tantaquidgeon Museum, which is located at 1819 Norwich-New London Turnpike (Route 32) in Uncasville, Conn. Mohegan tour guides, well-versed in Tribal tradition, make the extraordinary treasures of their people come to life. Admission is free of charge.

and air conditioning system has been installed, a bathroom added, and the security system upgraded with video cameras monitored by security staff.

Mohegan Medicine Woman Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel wrote in a recent article for the *Mohegan Sun Times*, “Even though John Tantaquidgeon was blind in one eye and on crutches when he began building the museum in 1930, he still handled every one of the granite field stones used in its construction. He was aided in its construction by his son Harold, who became Chief of the Mohegans in 1952 ...”

“The building’s rubble style masonry appears simple enough at first glance. But a closer look reveals hidden treasures. The Tantaquidgeons placed a diamond-shaped stone in the building’s exterior chimney and painted it blue as a symbol of Good Medicine. At the base of the chimney, they imbedded a hunk of white quartz (a ceremonial stone used for spiritual protection) and an ancient pestle. Inside the main entry room, they carved a two-foot-high, arrow-head-shaped stone and blended it into the wall. Around the mortar, beside an old stove pipe hole, they placed several extraordinarily fine, blue quartz and onyx arrowheads. Into the hearth below, they inscribed the completion date of 1931.”

The main collection features Eastern Woodland Indian artifacts, including baskets, wood carvings, bead work and stone work. Art and craft work from other Native Americans is displayed in a separate room. ✚

The regular museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday through Saturday from May through October. The museum is closed on major holidays. Please make an appointment for groups of 10 or more. For information, please contact Stacy Dufresne at 1-800-MOHEGAN, extension 6390, or 860-848-0594 or by e-mail at: museum@moheganmail.com

PHOTOS BY BILL GUCFA AND STEPHANIE FIELDING



Accepting the return of several Mohegan artifacts from the Slater Museum at the Norwich Free Academy (NFA) in Norwich, Conn., are Mohegan Medicine Woman Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel, seated left, Executive Director of the Tribe’s Cultural and Community Programs Department, and Dr. Jeffrey Bendremer,

seated center, the department’s Archaeologist. The objects, including a sling shot owned by Mohegan Chief Burrill Fielding, have been in the museum’s collection for many years. On hand for the ceremony at the Tribal government building, in the back row, from left, are: Deborah Lee, NFA’s Development Director;

Leigh Smead, Slater Museum Assistant Director; Mark Cohan, NFA Superintendent; Leo Butler, NFA Diversity Director; Karen Cook, NFA history and social studies teacher; and Joseph D. Gray Jr., Mohegan Council of Elders Vice Chairman. Seated right is Vivian Zoe, Slater Museum Director.

Slater Museum returns artifacts



A stone sling made and owned by Mohegan Chief Burrill Fielding (1937-1952). When a stone was launched from the sling, the force released would have been enough to bring down a deer. The sling may have been used as a weapon.

PHOTOS BY BILL GUCFA

Mohegan language, dormant for 100 years, is now restored

By Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel
Mohegan Medicine Woman

Aquy. (Greetings.)
Tòn kutayuw? (How are you?)
Nukòkicá. (I am in good health.)
Nahunshásh. (Goodbye.)

These four simple phrases lay dormant for a century, during which time the Mohegan language existed only in the memories of a few Tribal elders and the musty diaries of the Tribe's last speaker, Fidelia Fielding, whose Indian name was "Cits Pátunáhshô" (Flying Bird).

This year, on the 100th anniversary of her passing in 1908 and using her diaries as a base for a new dictionary, the Mohegan people have restored the language that Fidelia worked so hard to preserve. Thanks to the hard work of Mohegan Linguist Stephanie Fielding, the support of the Mohegan Council of Elders, and the patience of the Mohegan people during this difficult restoration process, Mohegans now possess a Modern Mohegan Dictionary, a mini-phrase book and a language audio CD. Language classes have begun and are ongoing. A longer phrase book and many other language projects are planned.

Moreover, with the help of the Flock Theatre in New London, Conn., last year's Tribal summer campers produced the first modern play in the Mohegan language, and another similar play is in the works for this year.

Why is the restoration of Mohe-

gan, one of the original languages of southeastern Connecticut, so important? Because, as the circular saying goes, "Language is culture and culture is language."

How so? The Mohegan language tells us a lot about our ancient traditions.

- Mohegan is a very diplomatic language. For instance, when speaking Mohegan, a person may make a distinction between whether or not they want to include everyone in the group present by using the term "we" in an inclusive or exclusive fashion.

- Mohegan is a poetic and alliterative language. Local history books record that Sachem Uncas told the English, "This heart is not mine, it is yours." Only, what he would have said in his Native language was "Yo mutah mutu nutah, wipi kutah."

- Mohegan teaches us about local place names and expressions. Cohegan Rock was known as the place where Uncas met with his Sag-amores, and the word "cochise/kuhcayhs" means old man, while the word "un/sun" means rock. The scary term "heebie jeebies" was probably fashioned from the Mohegan word "jeebie/jipi/cipi" (cipay in Modern Mohegan), which means "ghost."

- Mohegan words are found everywhere in the modern English language. Some of the most commonly known are squaw (sqá in Modern Mohegan) and papoose (páhpohs in Modern Mohegan).



Fidelia Fielding's Legacy

The life of the last speaker of the Mohegan language was a difficult one. The speaking of Mohegan was discouraged and Mohegan children were punished by their schoolteachers for doing so. Fidelia's diaries tell us that she relied heavily on her faith to sustain her. A typical quote translated into the Modern Mohegan orthography (which was created to provide consistent and more accurate spelling for old Mohegan words) reads: "Manto wikuw; numiyuq numihkikuôk, wáci tapi nutômki qá nutáyunamô nahak," which means "The Creator/God is good; he gives me strength, so that I can get up and help myself."

We look forward to honoring Fidelia Fielding's legacy of perseverance by preserving and sharing the Mohegan language. It constitutes a powerful tool in understanding

not only the ancient ways of the Mohegan people, but also, in translating terminology unique to this beautiful region that surrounds us. ✚



Pages from the diaries of Fidelia Fielding, the last fluent speaker of the Mohegan language.

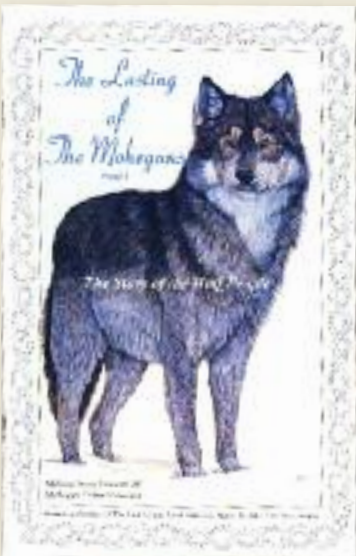
Mohegan Medicine Woman

Continued from page 1

programs for schools and community organizations, and offers many classes for Tribal members to teach the Mohegan language, dancing, drumming, basket-making, regalia-making, and arts and crafts.

Tantaquidgeon Zobel received the 1992 North American Native Writers' First Book Award in the creative non-fiction category for "The Lasting of The Mohegans – The Story of the Wolf People." She is also the author of "Medicine Trail – The Life and Lessons of Gladys Tantaquidgeon," "Makiawisug: The Gift of the Little People" and "Oracles: A Novel." She is currently writing a Native American murder mystery.

For the documentary film "The Mark of Uncas," Tantaquidgeon Zobel won an Emmy



Gladys Tantaquidgeon, center, was installed as Medicine Woman of the Mohegan Tribe at the 1992 Wigwam Festival. From left, are: Tribal Nonner Pauline Brown, former Tribal Ambassador Jayne Fawcett, Gladys Tantaquidgeon, her sister Ruth Tantaquidgeon and her grand-niece Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel.

Award in the category of Outstanding Target Audience Program from the Boston/New England Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

She was recognized for the film's historic content, and Ken Simon was recognized for his role as executive producer and director. The film tells the myth, life and legacy of Uncas, who was the Mohegan Sachem from 1635 to 1683.

Tantaquidgeon Zobel received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Georgetown University

School of Foreign Service, where she studied history and diplomacy, and a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Connecticut, where she studied history with a Native American focus.

Tantaquidgeon Zobel is the daughter of former Mohegan Tribal Ambassador Jayne Fawcett and her husband Richard. She is the mother of three children, Rachel, Madeline and David Sayet. She is married to Randall C. Zobel, her high school sweetheart at the Williams School in New London, Conn. ✚

Tribal Council hosts political reception for Mohegan youth

By Jonathan S. Hamilton

The Mohegan Tribal Council hosted an extraordinary political reception during which members of the Connecticut congressional delegation discussed issues and answered questions from Mohegan students who were in Washington, D.C., to attend the annual Close Up program, sponsored by United South and Eastern Tribes.

Five of the seven members of the state delegation appeared at the Pushmataha House, the Native American Embassy, located near the steps of the U.S. Capitol. They included: U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd and U.S. Reps. John Larson, Joe Courtney, Rosa DeLauro and Christopher Murphy, all Democrats.

Before the elected officials arrived at the Pushmataha House, members of the Tribal Council welcomed the 19 Mohegan students who were engaged in meetings, workshops and visits to Capitol Hill during the week-long Close Up program.

Mohegan Tribal Chairman Bruce S. Bozsum "Two Dogs" thanked the students for their commitment to learning about the workings of the federal government and the legislative process. He also discussed what members of the Tribal Council are involved in on a daily basis.

"We work on all issues that face Indian Country – culture, health, education, housing and labor – because we feel an obligation to help Tribes less fortunate than us, as well as Mohegan," Chairman Bozsum said. "All the issues we work on fall under the umbrella of sovereignty. We must protect our sovereignty at all costs because, without it, we lose our government and our ability to be self-determined and self-governed."

Ambassador Charles W. Blackwell of the Chickasaw Nation, whose office is in the Native American Embassy, talked about the life of Pushmataha, the Choctaw Indian Chief for whom the embassy is named. Pushmataha, known as the "Indian General," was the first Native American to become a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army. When he died in Washington, D.C., in 1824, Pushmataha was buried with full military honors as Andrew Jackson led the funeral procession on horseback



U.S. Rep. John Larson, a Democrat from East Hartford, chats with members of the Mohegan Tribal Council and Mohegan students during a gathering at the Pushmataha House, the Native American Embassy in Washington, D.C. From left are: Mohegan Tribal Chairman Bruce S. Bozsum "Two Dogs;" Chuck Bunnell, Chief of Staff for External and Governmental Affairs; Mohegan Tribal member Liz Malerba, Legislative Assistant to Rep. Larson; Tribal Councilor Thayne D. Hutchins Jr.; Rep. Larson and Corresponding Secretary James Gessner Jr.

and President James Monroe rode in a carriage alongside.

Liz Malerba, daughter of Mohegan Vice Chairwoman Lynn Malerba, spoke to the students about her work as a legislative assistant and correspondent, first with Rep. DeLauro and now with Rep. Larson in the nation's capital. She said she hopes to return soon to Mohegan to work for the Tribe.

"It won't be long until the torch of leadership is passed to us," she told the assembled Mohegan students.

Rep. Murphy told the students how he hopes to continue to be a advocate for Mohegans as well as all Native Americans across the country. He also described his typical day as a freshman House member, which includes breakfasts with constituents, visits to the district, committee meetings, receptions and voting.

Rep. DeLauro said she and her colleagues vote everyday in "this elective body" on issues that impact all people.

"It's a great place to be engaged in public policy. This body isn't perfect, but it has a lot of potential," she said.

Rep. Courtney told students he is often called "Landslide Joe," a comical reference to his 83-vote margin of victory in the closest congressional election in the country in 2006.

Rep. Larson, the fifth highest-ranking member in the House who is Vice Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, said a lot of things can be accomplished in this country because of "the great possibilities of America."

"Who would have thought in this current election we would have the first African American, the first woman and the first Latino running for the presidency."

Sen. Dodd, whose bid for the Democratic nomination for president ended in January, told students how remarkable the Mohegan people are for their traditions, culture and how they remember their identity and history. He said there should never again be any gaps in the history of tribes that would deny or wipe out their existence.

A student asked Sen. Dodd what characteristics are important for his position. "To serve in this job as senator," he said, "you have to like people and understand them." ✚

Breakfast with U.S. Rep. Courtney

Members of the Mohegan Tribal Council host a breakfast reception for U.S. Rep. Joseph Courtney, a Democrat from Vernon who represents Connecticut's 2nd Congressional District. Attending the reception at Mohegan Sun's Wombi Rock are, from left, Ambassador Mark F. Brown, Tribal Chairman Bruce S. Bozsum "Two Dogs," Tribal Councilor Cheryl Todd, Recording Secretary Allison D. Johnson, Vice Chairwoman Lynn Malerba, National Indian Gaming Association Chairman Ernie Stevens, Rep. Courtney, Corresponding Secretary James Gessner Jr. and Tribal Councilor Mark W. Hamilton.



PHOTO BY JONATHAN S. HAMILTON

U.S. Rep. Kennedy cites political experience in re-election bid

By Jonathan S. Hamilton

The Mohegan Tribe hosted a luncheon reception for U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy, a Democrat from Rhode Island and Co-Chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus, at Pompeii and Caesar on May 12.

Rep. Kennedy, who has served in the U.S. House since 1995, is running for re-election to an eighth term in November.

Tribal Chairman Bruce S. Bozsum "Two Dogs" introduced the congressman and thanked him for his awareness of all Native issues which not only impact Mohegans, but all tribes across the country.

As he prepares to run for re-election to Congress, Rep. Kennedy said his seniority now enables him to become the second ranking member on the House Appropriations Science, State, Justice, Commerce and Related Agencies Subcommittee. The assignment provides him law enforcement oversight on Indian reservations.

"I will now be able to deal with law enforcement issues on Indian lands, particularly gang-related activity in which gang members can hide behind [the doctrine of] sovereignty. Organized crime has also benefitted by using tribal lands as buffers for illegal enterprises," Rep. Kennedy said.

He said lawmakers constantly face challenges to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA).

"Opening up IGRA can lead to bad things," he said. "It is a dangerous process."



U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy, center, a Democrat from Rhode Island and Co-Chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus, tours the Earth Casino with Tribal Chairman Bruce S. Bozsum "Two Dogs" and Vice Chairwoman Lynn Malerba after attending a luncheon in his honor at Mohegan Sun's Pompeii and Caesar.



During his visit to Mohegan, U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy talks on the telephone with Mohegan Tribal member Jacob Bozsum, who is currently serving in the U.S. Army in Iraq and is stationed in Baghdad. He is the son of Tribal Chairman Bruce S. Bozsum "Two Dogs."

He described the Narragansett Tribe's plight caused by former Sen. John Chafee, a Republican from Rhode Island, who attached a rider in early morning hours to a large, unrelated bill, which exempted the tribe from IGRA.

"Sen. Chafee appeased a constituency which harbored anti-Native sentiment in the state,"

Rep. Kennedy said. "Today, the Narragansett Tribe is the only federally recognized tribe in the U.S. that is exempt from IGRA," Rep. Kennedy said.

Rep. Kennedy also took time to salute Chairman Bozsum's son Jacob, and Mohegan Ambassador Mark F. Brown's brother Kevin for serving their country in the Iraq War. The congressman serves on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs and hopes to increase mental health funding for returning veterans.

"We need to be there for the veterans," he said. "All veterans' families have been affected by this war. We must better serve them."

Rep. Kennedy also expressed concern that Indian Health Services continues to be severely underfunded by the federal government. It will remain a top priority for members in the Congressional Native American Caucus, he added. ✚

Child Welfare League recognizes Tribe with prestigious award

By Joe Smith
Manager of Public Affairs

The Child Welfare League of America presented the Mohegan Tribe with its 2008 Corporate Advocate of the Year Award at a dinner gala in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 26. Over 1,000 guests attended the event, including U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, a Democrat from Vernon, who represents Connecticut's 2nd Congressional District.

The Waterford Country School in Quaker Hill, Conn., nominated the Tribe for the distinguished award. The Tribe beat out a field of nominees that included the National Football League's Chicago Bears and Key Bank of Albany, N.Y.

Lynn Malerba, Mohegan Vice Chairwoman, and Christine Murtha "Micimii," former Tribal Council Corresponding Secretary and a five-year member of the Waterford Country School Board of Directors, accepted the award on behalf of the Tribe.

Vice Chairwoman Malerba said the dinner was a "very, very big deal" and "a very moving ceremony" with a strong Native American presence. Members of the Narragansett and Pawnee Tribes, as well as those involved in the National Indian Child Welfare Association, attended the gala.

"The Mohegan Tribe earned its award partly for its effort to partner with many deserving



The Child Welfare League of America honored the Mohegan Tribe with its 2008 Corporate Advocate of the Year Award in Washington, D.C. The award recognizes the Tribe's charitable efforts advocating for child health and welfare. Mohegan Vice Chairwoman Lynn Malerba, seated right, and former Tribal Council Corresponding Secretary Christine Murtha "Micimii," seated center, accept the award on behalf of the Mohegan Tribe.

non-profit organizations and in recognition of the economic and volunteer contributions of both members of the Tribe and employees of Mohegan Sun Casino," Vice Chairwoman Malerba said.

The Child Welfare League of America issued a press release praising the Tribe for its charitable efforts.

"The Mohegan Tribe is a leader nationally and is greatly admired throughout Indian Country ... They have not only promoted the well-being of children, but have been instrumental as a leader in the area of energy conservation and the preservation of natural resources, particularly drinking water," the organization wrote.

In particular, the organization named the Tribe's work with charitable organizations advocating for child health and welfare. The charitable entities include the Make A Wish Foundation, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, the International Coalition for Children and the Environment, Bike for Kids, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

The Child Welfare League of America works at the local and national levels to protect and ensure the safety and well-being of America's families and its children. The national alliance is composed of nearly 800 organizations from the public and private sectors.

The Waterford Country School was formed to meet the special needs of families and children at risk. Its range of programs and services is available throughout the state of Connecticut, with a focus on individuals, organizations and agencies in the eastern region. Since 2004, the school's annual fundraiser, "Kabaret For Kids," has been held in Mohegan Sun's Cabaret Theatre. ✚

Council of Elders appoints five Mohegans to ceremonial positions

By Nancy Trimble

The Mohegan Council of Elders recently appointed Tribal member Loretta Roberge to the position of Nonner and Tribal members Laurence Schultz "Redmoon," Courtland Fowler, Bruce (Ricky) Watt and David Fowler to the position of Sagamore. Each of the five has long served the Tribe in paid and unpaid capacities and, throughout their lifetimes, have been advocates for the Mohegan Tribe and its members and promoters of Mohegan culture, the Council of Elders said.

A Nonner is a female Tribal member who has a record of outstanding service to the Tribe, is venerated within the Tribe, and is qualified to represent the Tribe with dignity in this position.

A Sagamore is a male Tribal member who has a record of outstanding service to the Tribe, who has achieved veneration in the Tribe or, with age, is expected to achieve such veneration, and is qualified to represent the Tribe with dignity in this position.

Continuing as Nonners are Tribal elders Olive (Holly) Picozzi, Pauline Brown and Catherine Lamphere, who were appointed in May 2000. Sagamore Donnell (Rocky) Hamilton and Nonners Roberta Cooney and Virginia Damon have passed away.

In making the appointments, the Council of Elders adopted resolutions that state, in part:

Loretta Roberge: "Her years of dedicated service to the Tribe have involved many different tasks, including serving on the Mohegan Tribal Council (both before and after federal recognition), serving as a long-standing member of the Burial Committee, compiling and maintaining records essential to the Tribe's petition for federal recognition, and representing the Tribe at Montville Town Council meetings on issues of importance to the Tribe. ..."

Laurence Schultz "Redmoon": "His years of dedicated service have included serving on the Mohegan Council of Elders, helping to maintain the grounds at Fort Hill both as an Elder and when he was a youngster, and teaching drumming and dancing to Tribal members. ..."

Courtland Fowler: "His years of dedicated service have included serving on the Mohegan



Nonners and Sagamores are Mohegan Tribal members who have served throughout their lifetimes as advocates of the Tribe and promoters of its culture. Seated, from left, are Mohegan Nonners Olive (Holly) Picozzi and Catherine Lamphere. Standing, from left, are Mohegan Sagamores David Fowler, Laurence Schultz "Redmoon," Courtland Fowler and Bruce (Ricky) Watt and Nonners Pauline Brown and Loretta Roberge.

Tribal Council, representing the Tribe in dealings with the federal, state and local governments, service on the Burial Committee, and dedication to the protection of Mohegan Tribal burial grounds. ..."

Bruce (Ricky) Watt: "His years of dedicated service have included serving on the Constitution Revision Commission since its inception, serving as alternate to the Housing Board, volunteering at the Wigwam Festival, volunteering at the Tantaquidgeon Museum, and involvement since childhood in the civic life of the Tribe. ..."

David Fowler: "His years of service have included serving as Tribal Planner prior to federal recognition, serving on the Burial Committee, representing the Mohegan Tribe at Montville Town Council meetings, volunteering at the Tantaquidgeon Museum, and long hours of work on many successful Tribal projects. ..." ✦

A Nonner is a female Mohegan Tribal member who has a record of outstanding service to the Tribe, is venerated within the Tribe, and is qualified to represent the Tribe with dignity in this position.



A Sagamore is a male Mohegan Tribal member who has a record of outstanding service to the Tribe, who has achieved veneration in the Tribe or, with age, is expected to achieve such veneration, and is qualified to represent the Tribe with dignity in this position.

U.S. Rep. Murphy praises Mohegan Sun as an 'economic force'

U.S. Rep. Christopher Murphy, center, a Democrat from Cheshire who represents Connecticut's 5th Congressional District, was the honored guest at a luncheon reception hosted by the Mohegan Tribal Council at Mohegan Sun. From left, are: Treasurer William Quidgeon Jr., Ambassador Mark F. Brown, Councilor Cheryl Todd, Chairman Bruce S. Bozsum "Two Dogs," Recording Secretary Allison D. Johnson, Rep. Murphy, Corresponding Secretary James Gessner Jr., and Tribal Councilors Thayne Hutchins Jr. and Mark W. Hamilton. Rep. Murphy said, "The Mohegans are an economic force in southeastern Connecticut and are a voice for Native American issues. They have made a commitment to use their fortunes to help [other] Indian nations expand on their fortunes."



PHOTO BY CHUCK BUNNELL

Tribe and unions reach historic Project Labor Agreement

By Jonathan S. Hamilton

The announcement of a Project Labor Agreement, the first of its kind to be entered into on sovereign tribal land in Connecticut, between the New London-Norwich Building and Construction Trades Council and the Mohegan Tribe's construction firms, Skanska and the Keating Group, took place on April 1.

Labor representatives, construction management officials and members of the Mohegan Tribal Council met in a suite on the 35th floor of the Mohegan Sun Hotel to celebrate the landmark agreement. The accord ensures that the \$925 million Project Horizon will have the necessary labor force to complete Mohegan Sun's third expansion phase.

Mohegan Tribal Chairman Bruce S. Bozsum "Two Dogs" said the historic occasion formally acknowledges the new written agreement between union labor and the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority's construction management team. He said the agreement had been worked on for about a year, but many of the details were ironed out in the last few weeks of negotiations.

"Today's event is designed to celebrate what all of us can achieve when our sovereign nation is able to work with other organizations under the guidelines of communication, cooperation and mutual respect that have long been at the core



Mohegan Tribal Chairman Bruce S. Bozsum "Two Dogs" meets with Peter Ed Reilly, left, President-New London-Norwich Building and Construction Trades Council, and Chuck Appleby Jr., right, Business Manager-New England Regional Council of Carpenters, during the April 1 announcement of the Project Labor Agreement (PLA) between the New London-Norwich Building and Construction Trades Council and the Tribe's construction firms, Skanska and the Keating Group. The PLA is the first to be entered into on sovereign tribal land in Connecticut.

of the Mohegan Way," Chairman Bozsum said.

Peter Ed Reilly, President-New London-Norwich Building and Construction Trades Council, said the agreement is based on "mutual cooperation and provides untold economic income and opportunity."

"We have a wonderful relationship with the Tribe," he added.

The Trades Council is comprised of 16 local unions representing labor and craft workers from the construction industry.

Chuck Appleby Jr., Business Manager-New England Regional Council of Carpenters and the legislative and political director of the Trades Council, said the agreement is a "home

run." Appleby expects at least 500 carpenters out of the 2,600 in the carpenter union to work on Project Horizon when construction is fully under way.

"Because of the mutual respect we share for one another, we believe there is a true partnership with the Tribe. The Tribe has made commitments and they live up to them," he added.

Project Horizon will add a 919-room hotel and 115,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space. The Casino of the Wind, a 45,000-square-foot gaming space, including 680 slot machines, 28 table games and a new 42-table themed poker room, is scheduled to open this fall. ✚

Connecticut House Speaker visits Mohegan to discuss state issues



Connecticut House Speaker James Amann, a Democrat from Milford and a gubernatorial contender, meets with members of the Mohegan Tribal Council for a general discussion of state issues. From left are: Treasurer William Quidgeon Jr., Vice Chairwoman Lynn Malerba, Ambassador Mark F. Brown, Speaker Amann, Tribal Chairman Bruce S. Bozsum "Two Dogs," Recording Secretary Allison D. Johnson, Councilor Cheryl Todd, Corresponding Secretary James Gessner Jr. and Councilors Mark W. Hamilton and Thayne D. Hutchins Jr.

Connecticut Boxing Hall of Fame now at Mohegan Sun Arena

Mohegan Tribal leaders and officials from Mohegan Sun and the Connecticut Boxing Hall of Fame held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Hall of Fame's home on the concourse of the Mohegan Sun Arena on June 12. The Hall of Fame contains a 24-foot case which displays plaques for each of the 18 inductees and a television screen which shows highlights from each boxer's career. From left are: Mike Mazzulli, Director of the Mohegan Department of Athletic Regulation (DAR); Kim Baker, DAR Scorekeeper; Mohegan Tribal Chairman Bruce S. Bozsum "Two Dogs;" Mike Murtha, DAR Chief Inspector; Paul Munick, Mohegan Sun's Senior Vice President of Sports and Entertainment; and Tribal Vice Chairwoman Lynn Malerba.



PHOTO BY BILL GUOFA

Mohegan Sun Wins Country Music’s “Casino of the Year” Award; Billboard Magazine, Pollstar rank Arena as a top worldwide venue

The Board of Directors for the Academy of Country Music (ACM) has selected Mohegan Sun as 2008’s “Casino of the Year.” This marks the second time that Mohegan Sun has won the award; the first win was in 2005.

Paul Munick, Senior Vice President of Sports and Entertainment, said, “Mohegan Sun is extremely honored and pleased to be recognized by the ACM with this marvelous industry accomplishment. Country music has been a mainstay of Mohegan Sun’s concert calendar in the past, and will continue to be in the future, with superstars like Trace Adkins and Brooks & Dunn in the weeks and months ahead.”

The win arrives on the heels of Mohegan Sun Arena placing number five in Billboard Magazine’s world-wide survey of concert attendance for 2007. Mohegan Sun competed with top tier entertainment destinations such as New York’s Radio City Music Hall and Los Angeles’s Gibson Amphitheatre in Universal City. Among U.S. venues only, it is ranked fourth.

Pollstar has also ranked the Mohegan Sun Arena 20th for all worldwide arena venues. Venues ranked in the top 20 include Los Angeles’s Staples Center, Houston’s Toyota Center and New York’s Madison Square Garden.

“Our behind-the-scenes crew has put in extraordinary efforts on an extremely busy schedule to deliver these fantastic concert experiences,” Munick said. “It takes real team effort to make all of this possible and the recognition speaks volumes for the kind of people we have here at Mohegan.”

Mohegan Sun has hosted several of this year’s ACM Award recipients, including all five artists nominated for “Entertainer of the Year” (Kenny Chesney, Brad Paisley, Rascal Flatts, George Strait and Keith Urban), event emcee Reba McEntire, and numerous nominees, including Martina McBride, Carrie Underwood, Big & Rich, Rodney Atkins and Taylor Swift.

Kenny Chesney, who won Entertainer of the Year for the fourth time on May 18, recently

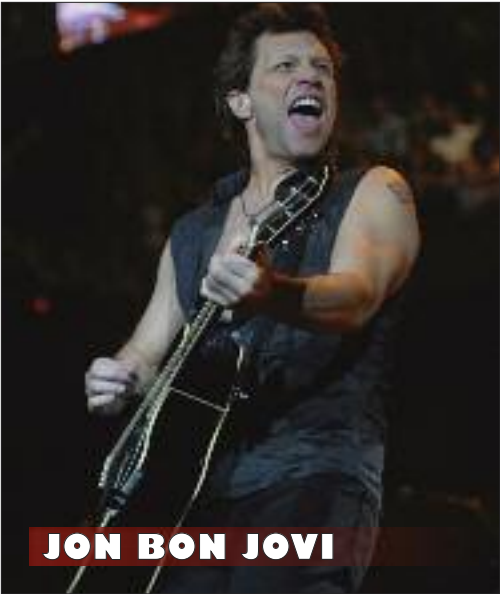
kicked off his Poets and Pirates Tour in the Mohegan Sun Arena. Brad Paisley (Top Male Vocalist), Rascal Flatts (Top Vocal Group) and Carrie Underwood (Top Female Vocalist) have all performed to sell-out crowds in the Arena.

Other winners and nominees this year include many musicians who have been inducted into the Mohegan Sun Walk of Fame: Keith Urban, Rascal Flatts, Martina McBride and even the rock group Bon Jovi (nominated for “Vocal Event of the Year” for their collaboration on “Till We Ain’t Strangers Anymore” with LeAnn Rimes).

Many of Mohegan Sun’s country performances were produced in association with Live Nation, regarded by Billboard and Pollstar as the number-one worldwide concert promoter.

The Academy of Country Music is headquartered in Burbank, Calif., and honors performers and professionals of the country music industry through its organization of more than 4,000 members. +

Mohegan Sun attracts the finest artists in entertainment



PHOTOS BY PHIL LAMPRON AND MARK BRETT

Connecticut Sun donates preseason proceeds to Norwich fire victims

Connecticut Sun, the WNBA team owned by the Mohegan Tribe, announced it was donating proceeds from its two preseason games at the Mohegan Sun Arena to the victims of the fire that destroyed the 120-unit Peachtree Apartments in Norwich, Conn., on April 26.

“It is almost impossible to comprehend the impact of this incredibly unfortunate event,” said Mitchell Etess, Mohegan Sun’s Chief Executive Officer. “Over 20 Mohegan Sun employees were displaced by the disaster. The whole Mohegan Sun family feels it’s important to not only give back to our fellow co-workers, but to all of those affected by this fire. This isn’t just about the money raised by the Connecticut Sun over these two nights, but more importantly about a community coming together to rally for their neighbors. We sincerely hope that everyone will come out and support these games and their neighbors in their time of need.”

Mohegan Tribal Chairman Bruce S. Bozsum “Two Dogs” said, “We are proud and pleased that the Connecticut Sun is joining the effort to restore the lives of the members of our community who have suffered a terrible loss. The Mohegan Way has always been about reaching out and being a good neighbor – and this is another great way to put that philosophy into action.”

The Sun’s first preseason home game was May 4 against the defending WNBA Champion Phoenix Mercury and the second was against the Houston Comets on May 9.

In addition to proceeds from the two games,



Members of the Tribal Council present a \$30,000 check to the American Red Cross for the Peachtree Fire Victim Fund during halftime of the WNBA’s season opener between the Connecticut Sun and the Atlanta Dream at the Mohegan Sun Arena on May 16. The money was raised through gate receipts from two pre-season games. A fire destroyed the 120-unit apartment building in Norwich on April 26. From left are: Corresponding Secretary James Gessner Jr., Diane Auger of the Red Cross, Nicole Bolen of the Red Cross, Recording Secretary Allison D. Johnson, Tribal Councilor Cheryl Todd, Treasurer William Quidgeon Jr. and Connecticut Sun General Manager Chris Sienko.

Connecticut Sun fans had the opportunity to donate throughout the games on the arena course. A rummage sale of Sun merchandise was also held, with all proceeds going to the fire victims.

More than 160 people lost their homes in the fire, which demolished the apartment complex on Westledge Drive. The displaced residents have been housed in shelters by the American

Red Cross throughout the Norwich area, with aid coming from around the local community as well as the entire state. “We welcome the opportunity to give back to our co-workers and those in our community,” Connecticut Sun General Manager Chris Sienko said. “Their loss is much greater than the money we have raised, but hopefully this will help with their immediate and essential needs.” +

Revamped Connecticut Sun hopes to make another title run

By Jonathan S. Hamilton

Before the season began, the WNBA Connecticut Sun revamped its team from top to bottom. Eight new faces dot the roster, including four former University of Connecticut standouts. Despite a host of relatively unproven young talent, the Sun, with a mix of veteran players, hopes to surprise WNBA teams with a younger, faster team. With fresh legs and new team chemistry, the Sun bids for a sixth straight playoff appearance.

The Sun said goodbye to All-Star Katie Douglas who asked to be traded to the Indiana Fever. In return, the team got Tamika Whitmore. Nykesha Sales, in the off season, informed the front office she would sit out the season to nurse several nagging injuries. Le’Coe Willingham, Kristin Rasmussen, Erika deSouza, Megan Mahoney, Margo Dydek all bid adieu via trades or free agent signings, which left roster spots wide open. Guard Megan Philips is expected to return for the last eight games of the season after her commitment to the Australian national team is completed.

The former UConn standouts include returning veteran Asjha Jones,



Asjha Jones is expected to be a significant contributor on offense as the revamped Connecticut Sun seeks its sixth consecutive playoff berth in the WNBA.

recently acquired Barbara Turner, Tamika (Williams) Raymond and first-round pick (12th overall) Ketia Swanier.

According to Coach Mike Thibault, 6-foot, 4-inch French center Sandrine Gruda, is expected to have a major impact with her overall skill package which makes her “potentially a top-five player in the league.”

Swanier is part of a 2008 Sun draft class that gives the team a decidedly youthful look. Amber Holt, a forward from Middle Tennessee State,

was taken with Connecticut’s first pick (8th) in the first round. She led the nation in scoring and has given the Sun some early scoring spark in the front court. Jolene Anderson, the all-time leading scorer at the University of Wisconsin, has already knocked down some important jump shots for the Sun. Rookie forward Kerri Gardin from Virginia Tech logged significant minutes at the start of the season for the Sun.

Wily veteran Tamika Whitmore is expected to bring a physical presence as well as scoring to a strong front court for the Sun. This could be a

breakout year for All-Star guard Lindsay Whalen. The point guard continues to run the offense superbly and has improved her defensive skills as well. Reserve guard Jamie Carey will provide relief in the backcourt while Whalen takes a breather on the bench.

Connecticut has shown itself time after time to be a resourceful team, especially during its successful playoff runs over the years. This team, with a virtual new cast of players, will once again have to prove itself, if it expects to go deep in the playoffs this season. +



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